

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHELETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)

Friday April 15th, 2016

Attending Commissioners: Taylor Leavitt (Commission Chair), Kevin Daniels (Commissioner), Commissioner Mike Deaver (via teleconference). Mike Greene (Assistant Attorney General), Scott Bowler (Executive Assistant) and guest Jeremy Horn (Elite Fight Night) Andrew Cruz (Contestant) Bill Gathright (Coach for Mr. Cruz) and Mitchell Brooks.

Commission Chairman Leavitt called the meeting to order at 11:12am at the Governor's Office of Economic Development in Room 341 "Canyon Lands Conference Room."

NON AGENDA ITEM

Commissioner Kevin Daniels inquired as to the date of the Golden Gloves event. **May 16-21, 2016** and asked to have these dates added to the current "schedule of events" (although not a PSUAC event). Commissioner Daniels asked Scott Bowler to come up with a few ideas on "youth contests" for the tickets to the event which provided to the PSUAC. An email is forthcoming.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10th 2016. Commissioner Deaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of new format for meetings

Commission Chair Leavitt asked Scott Bowler and A.A.G. Mike Green to explain the new format. In an effort to formalize the Commission meetings the room has been set up with the Commission members sitting at a table facing the room. There will be a "presentation/witness table" that faces them and all other attendee's will be at a table behind that. The idea to promote a more structured formal setting that will prevent attendee's from interjecting thoughts during a format process. The Commissioners feel that participation from the attendee's is extremely valuable, but the time for them to speak will be during public "Public Comments" or when specifically asked by a commission member. This will help to clear up the chatter during times of "Appeal" to ensure a good transcript of the events can be captured.

Mr. Green advises that the meeting be formalized for the Appeals process to promote a more professional setting. Similar to a "Public Service" meeting All attending members of the commission agree with the new format.

Appeal- Andrew Cruz has asked for reconsideration of the PSUAC ruling from January 18th 2016 on a U.A. violation from June 20th, 2015.

Commission Chair Leavitt asked A.A.G. Mike Green the Administrative process to proceed.

Mr. Green advised the board that under the Utah Administrative Procedures Act, a petitioner can send a formal request for reconsideration of a ruling or action taken by the board, and that he/she can have that appeal heard before the board. Although there is no rule that allows for the introduction of new evidence or hearing of argument but it is up to the board to determine if the statement has rule or

statement of fact, which may change your opinion of the initial ruling. New evidence and argument is not allowed but statements which may prove that the initial ruling was not in accordance with the proper application of the Administrative Rules or Law.

Andrew Cruz was permitted a statement. He opened with asking to commission if they had an opportunity to read his letter asking for reconsideration. Both Kevin Daniels and Taylor Leavitt affirmed that they had read the 5 page document. Mr. Cruz stated that, under the State of Utah laws he would not be found guilty of DUI for the amount of the controlled substance in his system, as stated in a previous commission meeting. Commissioner Daniels informed Mr. Cruz that in his "Full Time" job as an Assistant District Attorney that was incorrect and ANY measurable amount can result in a possible conviction of Driving under the Influence (DUI).

Mr. Cruz asked for the specific test panel of which Redwood Toxicology used for conducting this test. A.A.G Green informed Mr. Cruz that the inquiry process was closed at the last hearing that this time would be used to make statements that may influence the Board to reconsider the original ruling.

Mr. Cruz asked why the Administrative Rule 63-N 10-309 b. which was stated on his letter was not for in the Administrative Law but it has been change from 63-M 10-309. The letter that was sent was correct and stated the correct law.

Mr. Cruz asked for statements from the commission regarding his letter. Commissioner Daniels replied that he stands by his original statements from the previous hearing. The testing process is consistent with other testing throughout the State. He continued that there has not been a sufficient argument of the facts to overturn the original ruling.

Discussion continued on several topics including World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) standards, Idaho National Guard Standards, The retesting of the sample, and other statements made in previous commission meetings. A.A.G. Green and Commission Chairman Leavitt advised that the board ruling will stand and that if Mr. Cruz wanted to continue this case it would be done so in District Court.

Commissioner Daniels made the motion to deny the reconsideration of the ruling in case #2016-01-18 which was seconded by Commissioner Mike Deaver. Chair Leavitt concurred. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Policy regarding tape and wraps for MMA Competition (Ankles, Elbows and Knees)

Scott Bowler advised that no PSUAC policy regarding then use of "tape" and/or "wraps" on ankles, elbows and knees exist currently. Having had a number of inquiries as to this policy at resent events prompted clarification. A poll of California, Washington, Arizona and Nevada revealed a complete ban on tape. Although Washington and Arizona allow a Neoprene or elastic sleeve with no solid support structure on knees only. Florida and New Jersey also have no written policy regarding tape or wraps.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion that a new policy be drafted prohibiting the use of tape and wraps on ankles, knees and elbows in MMA competition. This must comply with the Administrative Rule making process policy to be voted on at a later date. Commissioner Deaver Seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Discussion to eliminate “Combined Sport” Events

Mr. Bowler explained that several requests have come into the PSUAC office to hold multiple sport events. Such as, a Mixed Martial Arts event with Kickboxing as well. These types of event are a strain on Commission resources of officials like judges, referees and inspectors. Currently the only way to proceed is to bring in additional staff to facilitate both types of events. The event fees are then passed on to the promoter.

Kevin Daniels asked for attendees input. There was support to continue doing “Combined” events.

Discussion was opened regarding the cultivation of new Referees, Judges, and Inspectors

The Commission feels that as long as a promotion is willing to pay the additional fees, and the support staff is available that these can be taken in a case by case basis. The Director can make that determination. The Commission directed Mr. Bowler to create an acknowledgement page to the promoters’ license which would explain that additional fees may be required and that the event must run with one sport at a time.

Discussion regarding Weigh ins and Pre-Fight Physical protocols

The current policy is to check fighters in, complete licensing paperwork, then weigh then fighters in. In an effort to keep up with current “weight-cutting” safety protocols. It is proposed that fighters will be weighed shortly after arrival and all Licensing paperwork and “Pre-Fight” physicals will be completed after the fighters get off of the scales.

Commission Chair Leavitt directed Mr. Bowler to complete a revision to the Fight Night Protocol regarding weigh-ins and circulate that amongst the commission for review. This will be continued to the next commission meeting.

Financial Report

Director Colbert was not available so Scott Bowler explained that with the Commission budget reflects a successful year. Even with the recent expenditures of increased staff (Scott Bowler) we are still well within our annual budget guidelines. The Ringside Physician/ABC Conference at the end of July will be applied to the next fiscal year’s budget.

Review of Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments:

April 2015

Saturday – April 23, 2016 @ 6pm Corner 2 Corner Ent. Davis County Conference Center, 1085 Riverbend Cove, W. Salt Lake City, UT – Corner 2 Corner Ent. – Professional Boxing

Friday – April 29, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 41 (21+ Show), The Complex, 536 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

Friday – April 29, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, FitCon, South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 S State Street, Sandy, UT – **FitCon Fight Night** – MMA Event.

May 2016

Saturday – May 14, 2016 @7:00PM, South Valley Slam, Sand Hollow State Park, Sand Hollow Road, Hurricane, UT – South Valley Slam – MMA Event

Saturday – May 21, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 42 (21+ Show), The Complex, 536 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

June 2016

Saturday – June 4, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, Fierce MMA, Carbon County Event Center, 450 South Fairgrounds Way, Price, UT – **Fierce MMA** – MMA Event.

Friday – June 24, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 43 (21+ Show), The Complex, 536 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

Jul 2016

Friday – July 29 – August 4, 2016 – Association of Ringside Physicians and Association of Boxing Commissions Annual Conference and Training – Las Vegas, NV – No events scheduled.

August 2016

Friday – July 29 – August 4, 2016 – Association of Ringside Physicians and Association of Boxing Commissions Annual Conference and Training – Las Vegas, NV – No events scheduled.

Friday – August 12, 2016 @ 8:00 PM, Elite Fight Night 26, Weber County Fairgrounds, 1000 North, 1200 West, Ogden, UT– **Elite Fight Night** – MMA Event.

Friday – August 12, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 44 (21+ Show), The Complex, 536 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

October 2016

Saturday – October 15, 2016 @ 6:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 45 (All Ages Show) , The Legacy Event Center, 151 South 1100 West, Farmington, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

November 2016

Saturday – November 18, 2016 @ 7:00 PM, SteelFist Fight Night 46 (21+ Show), The Complex, 536 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT – **SteelFist** – MMA Event.

Commissioner Leavitt, Daniels, and Deaver will be in attendance of the upcoming Corner 2 Corner boxing event.

Director's Report

The PSUAC is now taking Credit/Debit Cards. The system was tested to great success at the Clash event the previous weekend.

Commission Chair Leavitt requested that Scott Bowler put together a letter to the Attorney General's office requesting that Mike Green attend the ABC Conference.

Executive Assistant Bowler reminded the Commission Members who plan to attend the ABC Conference in July to respond to the email so the fee can be submitted as well as Hotel's booked. The Ringside Physician's conference is concurrent with the Officials training. He will send a follow up email.

Chairman Leavitt asked Scott Bowler if Director Colbert was able to provide a formal job description for the Executive Assistant. It was not yet available.

Public Comments – Open Discussion – No Action to be taken

Mitchell Brooks asked the commission regarding the use of video to present the case of the Justus Minardi vs Cezly Collard bout. All resources in the conference room will be at his disposal.

Mr. Brooks also commented that David Allred (contestant) has sent in a request for a hearing regarding the result of his RFA bout in February. It is unclear if he will continue the process.

Mr. Brooks also asked when the final Commission member spot would be filled and who makes that decision. He was informed that nothing was done because of the Legislative Session running but now that it is complete the Senate President will make that appointment. A.A.G. Mike Greene informed him that J.C. Skinner will oversee that process.

Discussion continued regarding the procedure of the upcoming "Appeal". Chair Leavitt asked if there is a need a separate meeting for Minardi vs. Collard bout.

Jeremy Horn asked about the policy regarding Fighters being suspended for missing weight. Commissioner Daniels affirmed that the policy is put in place to promote consistency in the process. A side note; it is designed to penalize Amateur fighters for missing weight. Professional fighters are issued a monetary fine. He continued that he feels it is unfair.

Commission Chair Leavitt asked to establish a date and time for the next meeting

Next meeting to be scheduled Friday May 20th 2016 at 12am at the GOED/PSUAC office 60 E, South Temple Third Floor Canyonlands Conference Room 369 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Adjourn

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Deaver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 1:11pm